

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 were originally presented. Claims 1, 3-6, and 8 have been amended and claims 19-26 have been added, so that claims 1-26 are currently pending. Claims 1, 10, and 15 are in independent form.

In the Office Action of September 23, 2004, the Examiner listed claims 1-9 as the only pending claims and addressed only claims 1-9 in the Action. Applicant reminds the Examiner that claims 1-18 were originally presented in this application, and now claims 1-26 are pending. Applicant requests that the Examiner address the status of original claims 10-18, as well as new claims 19-26, in any subsequent Action.

In the Office Action of September 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mandai (U.S. 6,434,945) in view of Wall (U.S. 4,289,475).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the first and second gaseous fuels are (1) combusted in a *plurality of burners*, (2) supplied to the burners via a *common distribution system*, and (3) introduced into each burner via a *common single fuel nozzle*. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in the specification at page 2, lines 13-15; page 5, lines 14-22 and 28-30; page 6, lines 4-8; page 7, lines 21-26; and FIG. 2.

Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is patentable over the prior art references of record, including the Mandai and Wall references cited in the Office Action. For example, the Wall reference does not teach or suggest the use of a *turbine* powered by combusting different fuel compositions in a *plurality of burners*, where the different fuels are supplied to the burners by a *common distribution system*. Rather, the Wall reference teaches a *single furnace* supplied with different fuel compositions by *separate lines*. In addition, the Mandai reference does not teach or suggest the use of a *single fuel nozzle*. Rather, as indicated in its title, the Mandai reference specifically teaches the use of a "Dual Fuel Nozzle." Therefore, no combination of the prior art references, including the Mandai and Wall references, teaches or suggests all of the limitations of amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is patentable over the prior

art. Additionally, because any claim depending from a patentable independent claim is also patentable, dependent claims 2-9, which depend from independent claim 1, are also patentable.

Although not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action, Applicant submits that original claims 10-18 are also patentable because no combination of the prior art references of record discloses or suggests all the limitations of independent claims 10 and 15. For example, the prior art references of record do not teach or suggest the combustion of a steam-mixed fuel and a natural gas in a burner of a gas turbine where the adiabatic flame temperature of the steam-mixed fuel is within 20 percent of the natural gas at burner operating conditions, as recited in independent claim 10. Further, the prior art references of record do not teach or suggest the combustion of a steam-mixed fuel in a burner of a gas turbine, where the steam mixed fuel comprises about 5 to about 90 mole percent natural gas liquids, as recited in independent claim 15. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner address and allow claims 10-18 as originally presented.

New claims 19-26 have been added to further define the present invention. New claims 19-26 are in dependent form and depend from independent claims 1, 10, or 15, discussed above. Thus, because independent claims 1, 10, and 15 are submitted to be patentable for the reasons set forth above, new dependent claims 19-26 should also be in condition for allowance.

New claims 19-26 further distinguish the invention over the prior art references of record. For example, the prior art references of record do not teach or suggest the use of a common fuel controller to control the flow rate of two different fuel compositions to a burner of a turbine. Further, the prior art references of record do not teach or suggest the combustion of a steam-mixed fuel in a burner of a turbine, where the steam-mixed fuel consists essentially of ethane, propane, and/or butane.

In view of the foregoing, the present application should now be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

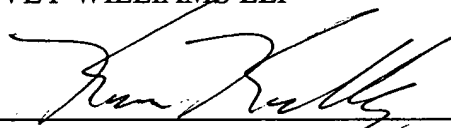
Appl. No. 10/814,008
Amdt. dated December 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2004

A check in the amount of \$300.00 also accompanies this Amendment for the 6 additional dependent claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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